MARVEL LEGACY THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY THOR

705

The Mighty THOR®

AARON
DAUTERMAN
WILSON

WHEN DR. JANE FOSTER LIFTS THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR, SHE IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE GODDESS OF THUNDER, THE MIGHTY THOR! HER ENEMIES ARE MANY, AS ASGARD DESCENDS FURTHER INTO CHAOS AND WAR THREATENS TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE TEN REALMS. YET HER GREATEST BATTLE WILL BE AGAINST A FAR MORE PERSONAL FOE: THE CANCER THAT IS KILLING HER MORTAL FORM...

MALEKITH AND HIS ALLIES ARE WAGING WAR ACROSS THE TEN REALMS, FORCING JANE TO NEGLECT HER CANCER TREATMENTS SO THAT THOR CAN DEFEND THE REALMS. ODINSON, DOCTOR STRANGE, FALCON AND ROZ SOLOMON UNITED FOR AN INTERVENTION, EVENTUALLY CONVINCING THOR TO PUT ASIDE HER HAMMER. IF SHE TRANSFORMS JUST ONE MORE TIME, THERE WILL BE NO COMING BACK. JANE FOSTER WILL DIE.

BUT MALEKITH'S PLOTS HAVE UNLEASHED THE MANGOG—THE MANIFESTED VENGEANCE OF A BILLION BILLION MURDERED SOULS. HE OBLITERATED THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AND TORE THROUGH ASGARDIA. EVEN THE ALL-MOTHER, THE ALL-FATHER AND THE ODINSON UNITED ARE HELPLESS TO STOP HIM.

FROM HER HOSPITAL ROOM, JANE FOSTER HEARD THE CALL. THOR IS NEEDED AGAIN.

SUNDOWN

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MANY MONTHS AGO.

TROUBLE *SLEEPING*, MY LADY?

MY WHOLE LIFE.

SLEEPING'S ALWAYS FELT TOO MUCH LIKE *DYING* TO ME. AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I'VE HAD MY FILL OF BOTH.

I DON'T SEE *YOU* SLEEPING, *HEIMDALL*.

YOU SOUND MORE LIKE AN ASGARDIAN EVERY DAY, SENATOR. YET EVEN THE GODS CANNOT AVOID SLUMBER, EITHER THE TEMPORARY OR THE PERMANENT VARIETY.

AND I WOULD RATHER NOT SEE YOU *PERISH*, LADY JANE.

IN YOUR *CONDITION*--

MY CONDITION...IS A *RESTLESS* ONE. AND I IMAGINE WE BOTH KNOW WHY.

I HAVE A *VOICE* IN MY HEAD, HEIMDALL. AND I WON'T INSULT YOU BY LYING ABOUT WHAT IT WANTS ME TO DO.

JUST SEND ME THERE. BEFORE I COME TO MY SENSES.

YOU ARE A SENATOR IN THE *CONGRESS OF WORLDS*, JANE FOSTER. THE *BIFROST* IS YOURS TO COMMAND.

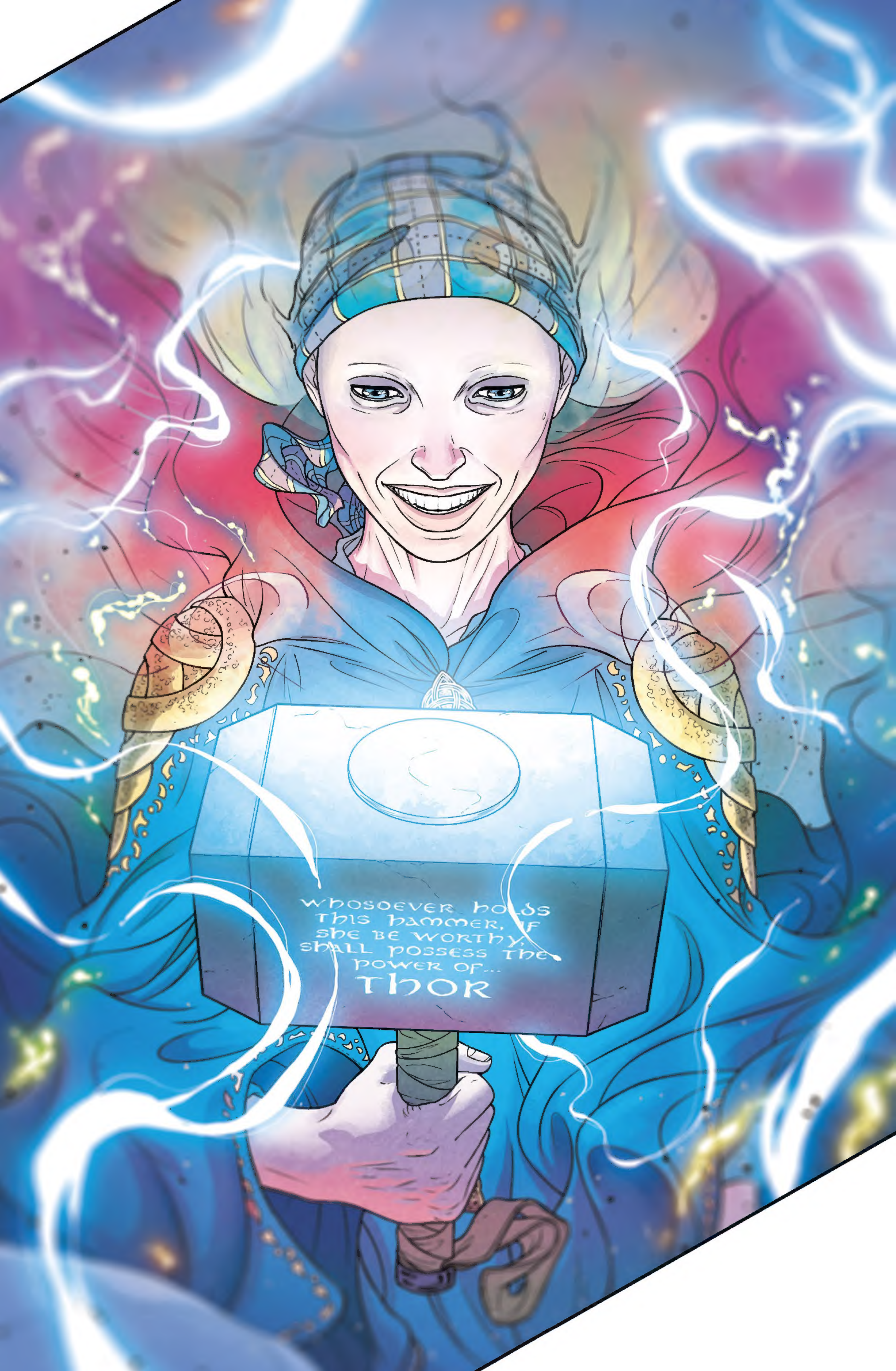
MAY THE GODS BE WITH YOU.

THOUGH PERHAPS YOU WOULD'VE BEEN FAR BETTER OFF...

"...IF THEY NEVER HAD BEEN."

THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A THOR.

WHOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF SHE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF... THOR


WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF SHE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF...
THOR

NOW.

RRRRRRRRGGGGHH!!

KRUDDAAK

BOOM

GAAAHH! HRRRGH!!!

THE MANGOG. HOLY CRAPPING HELL. NOW I SEE WHY THEY'RE ALL SO *AFRAID* OF THIS GUY.

I'VE FACED THE DESTROYER. THE WAR THOR. THE PHOENIX. EVEN THE ALL-FATHER HIMSELF.

BUT I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH POWER. SUCH *RAGE*.

LET'S HOPE THAT MELTED STATUE HOLDS HIM FOR A BIT.

THAT WON'T HOLD HIM FOR LONG.

NOTHING CAN STOP THE MANGOG.

NOT EVEN DEATH.

NOT EVEN *OUR* DEATHS.

THOUGH YOU'RE WELCOME TO DIE TRYING, JUST TO BE SURE.

THIEF OF HAMMERS.

IT WILL HOLD HIM LONG ENOUGH, *ODIN.*

ASGARDIA IS FLYING INTO THE SUN. YOU AND THE REST OF THE GODS MUST EVACUATE AT ONCE.

AND LEAVE YOU TO FACE THE MANGOG ALONE? NAY.

THOR...HE WILL TEAR YOU TO PIECES.

LOOK AROUND YOU, *LADY FREYJA.*

THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD ARE ROUTED. THE RAINBOW BRIDGE IS SHATTERED. THE ALL-FATHER IS LEAKING LIKE A ONE-EYED SIEVE.

THOR IS YOUR ONLY HOPE.

NOW GET THE GODS TO SAFETY. WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME.

NO!

YOU--YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE! WHAT DID YOU DO?!

ODINSON. NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

YOU'VE *KILLED* YOURSELF! HOW COULD YOU--

KILLED HERSELF? WHAT IS HE GOING ON ABOUT?

GGGRRRRGGH!!!

FREYJA, GO!

I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE AGAINST THAT, THOR! I WON'T CONDEMN YOU TO CERTAIN DEATH! NOT AFTER ALL YOU'VE--

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE THAN JUST THOR!

WE NEED GODS WE CAN BELIEVE IN! TELL THEM THAT! TELL ALL OF ASGARD!

TELL THEM IT'S TIME TO *EARN* THE GIFT THEY'VE ALL BEEN GIVEN!

WWRRRRRRGGH!!!

UUUGH!

KA-BOOM

WHEN SHE DIES, I WANT THAT HAMMER.

IF SHE DIES, WE'LL ALL SOON FOLLOW.

GO! GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE! ALL ASGARDIANS TO THE BOATS!

NO! NO, I WON'T--

GUARDS! DRAG MY SON IF YOU HAVE TO! BUT GET HIM ON A SHIP!

YOU *FIGHT* FOR THEM. BUT YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY A *GOD*, ARE YOU?

RRRGGH! YOU...ARE ENTIRELY A MONSTER!

YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT. I SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.

YOU'VE *HATED* THEM, TOO. DEEP IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW THEY DESERVE THIS.

THEY DESERVE EVERYTHING I BRING TO THEM!

EVERY WOUND, EVERY RUIN, EVERY TORMENT!

EVERY BLOODY BENEDICTION AND HOLY HORROR!

EVERY AGONY!

EVERY SWEET, SCREAMING, BLESSED *DEATH!*

GAAGHH!

AYE, I'VE HATED THE GODS AS MUCH AS ANYONE!

BECAUSE I KNOW THEY'VE FAILED US ALL WHEN WE NEEDED THEM MOST!

BUT THEY'VE SAVED US, TOO, EVEN WHEN WE DID NOT DESERVE IT! AND NOW IS MY CHANCE TO RETURN THE FAVOR!

KOOM

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL THEM. THAT'S WHY I EXIST.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE IN TO THAT HATE. THAT HATRED YOU KNOW IS JUST AND RIGHT.

AND STAND ASIDE.

I CANNOT DO THAT!!!

WHY BE A FOOL AND THROW YOUR OWN LIFE AWAY?!

YOU COULD SACRIFICE YOURSELF A THOUSAND TIMES AND THEY WOULD STILL NEVER CHANGE! THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED IN A BILLION EONS!

WHY?! WHY WOULD YOU DIE FOR SUCH A LOST CAUSE?!

WHY WOULD YOU DIE FOR THE GODS?!

I... I DIE FOR...

I DIE FOR *LOVE*, MANGOG.

YOU DIE FOR NAUGHT BUT *HATE*.

RRRGGH, PUT ME DOWN, YOU--

THAT IS WHY YOU LOSE.

AAAAAAAHHH!!!

SHE...SHE THREW THE MANGOG INTO THE *SUN*.

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

WE ARE SAVED. GODS...

GODS BLESS THOR.

NO. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S DONE. SHE'S *DOOMED* HERSELF.

WE HAVE TO *STOP* HER. WE HAVE TO GO BACK THERE AND--

RRRRRRRRRRRRGH!!!

IMPOSSIBLE! THE MANGOG STILL LIVES!

TOOTHGRINDER! OVER HERE!

SWIM FOR THE OTHER BOATS! WE CAN STILL MAKE IT TO THE MOON!

I'M NOT GOING TO THE MOON!

YOU SO YEARN TO BE A GOD?! VERY WELL!

YOU CAN DIE LIKE ONE!

THAT... WAS THE PLAN.

BUT I SHALL NOT DIE ALONE!

HHRRK!!!

AYE! NOR *SLAY* ALONE EITHER!

HHRRRGGGGH!!!

ODINSON, GET OUT OF HERE! WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN! ASGARDIA IS GOING UP IN FLAMES!

THAT WON'T STOP THE MANGOG. AND NEITHER WILL IT STOP THE GOD OF THUNDER!

NOTHING CAN STOP THE MANGOG!

NO GODS IN ALL THE HEAVENS OR HELLS!

KLONK

"NO ALL-FATHERS OR ALL-MOTHERS!

"NO SWORD OR AX OR HAMMER!

"NO MAGIC! NO THUNDER!"

NO THOR!

I...

I BELIEVE YOU.

THESE *CHAINS* WERE FORGED BY THE DWARVES OF NIDAVELLIR TO BIND THE MONSTER-WOLF FENRIS UNTIL THE DAY OF RAGNAROK.

LET'S SEE HOW THEY FIT A *MANGOG.*

I AM NOT A DOG, WOMAN!

I AM THE ULTIMATE JUDGMENT! I AM THE JUST PUNISHMENT OF ALL THE GODS!

I AM THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE THIS UNIVERSE FROM DIVINE RUI-- *HMMMR!*

IN THE END...IT WAS NOT A GOD.

'TWAS A MORTAL.

NAMED *JANE.*

A WOMAN WHO GAVE UP EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO STOP YOU.

REMEMBER THAT.

FLY TRUE, MY FRIEND.

FLY LIKE THE MIGHTY STORM YOU ARE.

NO... THOR, YOU CAN'T...

NOO!!!

WHAT...

...DID YOU JUST DO?

YOU THREW IT... INTO THE SUN...YOU...

YOU KILLED MJOLNIR!!! YOU JUST...

YOU JUST KILLED... YOU...

I KNOW.

BUT... YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE BACK NOW...AND YOU CAN'T...YOU WON'T SURVIVE ANOTHER...

ODINSON, *I KNOW.* I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'VE DONE.

WE...WE CAN STILL GET YOU TO THE HEALERS.

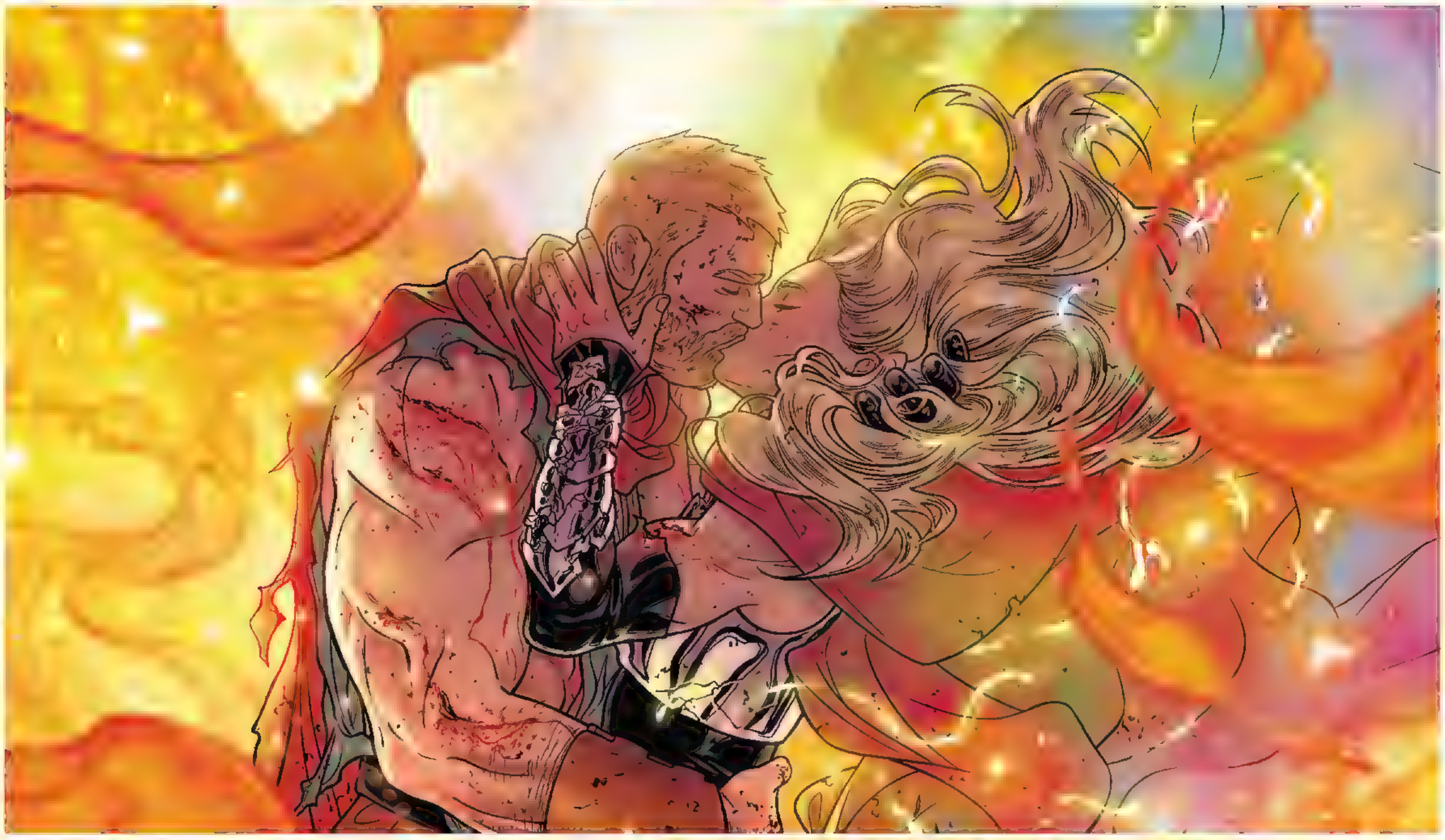
THERE ISN'T TIME FOR THAT. NOT THAT IT WOULD MATTER EVEN IF THERE WAS.

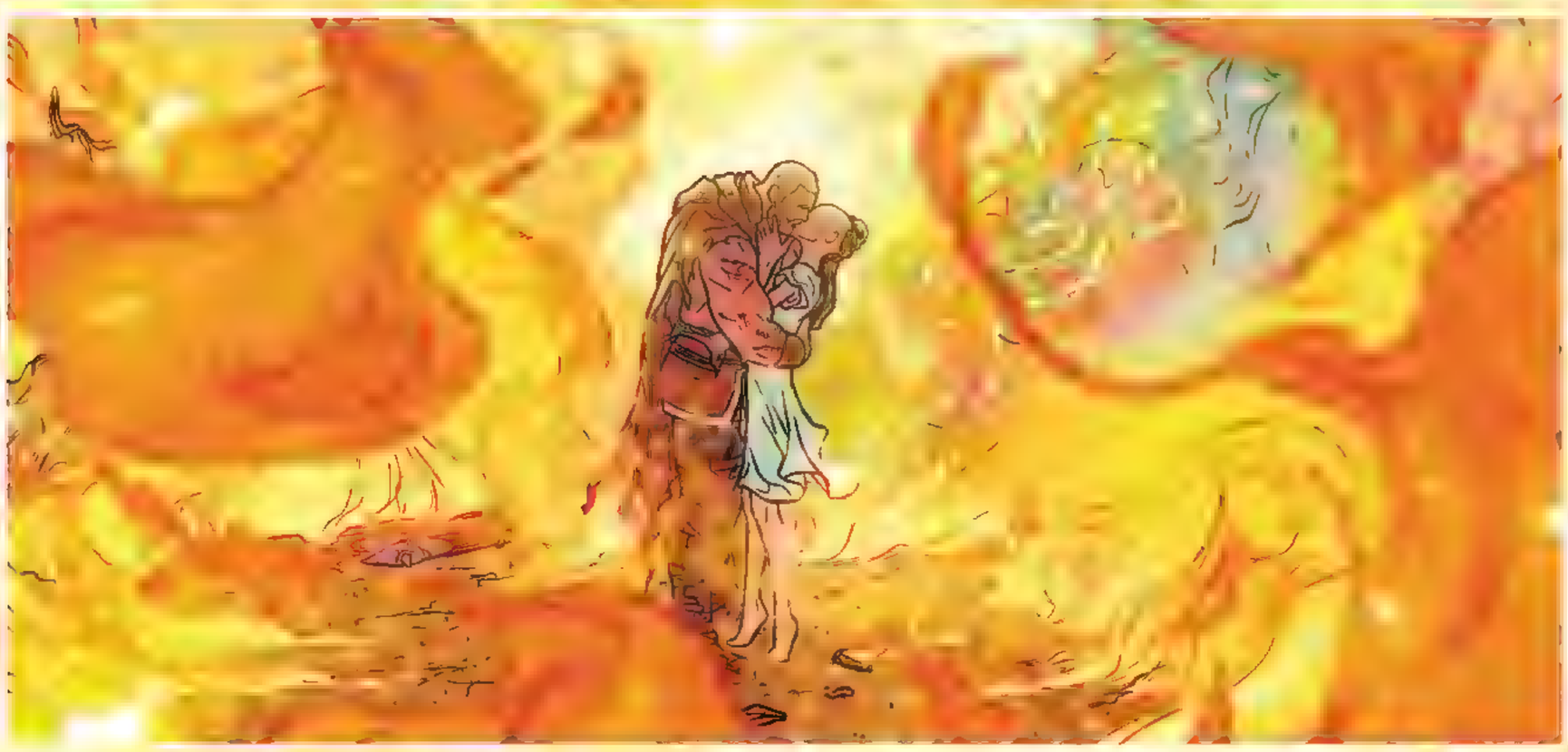
NO. IT CANNOT END LIKE THIS, JANE FOSTER. WE NEED MORE TIME.

LET'S NOT WASTE WHAT LITTLE WE HAVE.

BUT I...I KNOW NOT WHAT TO SAY.

SAY GOODBYE.





no...

PERHAPS... THERE'S STILL A CHANCE.

A CHANCE THEY COULD'VE... MADE IT OUT... BEFORE...

YOU FEEL IT THE SAME AS I DO, FREYJA.

THE CHILL OF *DEATH.*

THOR

TO BE CONCLUDED.

AND LO, THERE CAME THE... HAMMER GRAMS

SEND LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. DON'T FORGET TO MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!

WE WARNED YOU.

BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR TEARS. NOW IS THE TIME TO CELEBRATE A HERO—"A WOMAN WHO GAVE UP EVERYTHING" TO SAVE NOT ONLY THE LIVES OF MORTALS, BUT THOSE OF GODS. LET US ALL TRY TO BE WORTHY OF HER SACRIFICE, BEGINNING WITH OUR TRIBUTES TO IT...

Hi Team,

Jason Aaron's run on THE MIGHTY THOR has been amazing, and I've been following it since 2012. I've loved all of these wonderful tales of Asgard, with both Thors. It's been more than people swinging hammers—it's been truly inspirational.

I loved the recent inclusion of Hercules into the book, and seeing this new sober Herc across the line has been pretty special. I hope Herc, Zeus and all of Olympus features really prominently. I think it'd be this fantastic experience to see Asgard fall and Thor slowly begin his ascent to be the All-Father while Olympus takes the refugees from Asgard and takes its place as protector of the Ten Realms temporarily. A buddy Thor and Herc book is basically my dream book.

Cemil Bilici

Hi Cemil,

As you've seen, no Olympian could save Asgard. But the War of the Realms is still coming, and whoever is left will need allies. You just might get your Herc dose after all—stay tuned!

It is great to have Russell Dauterman as regular artist again. Every panel of the issue was spot-on. The colors were brilliant and impressive—thank you, Matthew Wilson. The story once again left me wanting more. There were a couple of things about the episode that stood out: Since Jane cannot possibly survive another transformation, I'm not sure what to make of Mjolnir. Does the Mother Storm within not care about Dr. Foster's health and welfare? It doesn't seem like it. The second thing I observed was All-Father Odin's obvious fear. Even his brother, the Serpent, was amazed. Perhaps Odin knows that the Mangog's rage is justified and that fear not only pierces his heart but maybe also causes him to regret his actions of the past. I guess time and more wonderful stories will reveal all. Thanks again for including Odinson in this story arc. He continues to be my favorite Marvel character, whether he wields the hammer or not.

Robert Greg Espinosa
Stockton, CA

Welcome back to the Hammer grams, Robert, and thanks for staying with us as long as you have. We love basking in your praise—and Matthew and Russell certainly deserve it. As for Mjolnir, that's a fair and complicated question. I think ultimately the hammer knows what must be done, and knows that Thor is the only one who can do it. Heroes... sacrifice. And we mourn, as is our role. Keep following the Odinson, though; I think you'll be excited to see where he goes next.

Dear Hammer Grams!

Loved issue #703! Just as you use "And Lo..." in your letter column title, I thought the title of the issue should have been "And Lo, the Wrath of the Mangog" instead of just "The Wrath of the Mangog." Why? Well, because it reminded me so much of a Stan Lee-written and Jack Kirby-drawn comic book masterpiece from the '60s with just enough spot-on dialogue, mayhem and carnage to keep me on the edge of my seat! And what a knock-down, drag-out fight that Mangog and Volstagg had! I sure hope Mighty Volstagg survived, but it sure doesn't look like he did by the story's end. Then again, he is an immortal Asgardian, so we'll see. Besides the main event, the story asides were thought-provoking, too. Foremost among them, the encounter between Karnilla and....Balder! Wow, haven't seen HIM for a while...and we might not see him again (but I hope we do). And finally that jerk Malekith shows up at the end to lead Mangog to the Asgardians and to taunt Volstagg. That guy deserves a beatdown in the biggest way possible and I'm looking forward to seeing it!

Alan Bowman

Another repeat writer on our hands! Alan, your dedication to the Thor mythos is without equal. Thanks so much for your time and love. We'll have to beg your patience a while longer, though; Malekith's beatdown is a long time coming, if at all. Ain't that just life. At least it keeps the stories coming...

Wow. I am again and again blown away by the Aaron/Dauterman/Wilson team. Just brilliant.

I will continue to be patient with an Asgardian family reunion and a reveal of Loki's plan, as I have total confidence in this story. So much so, that perhaps the very God of Stories could learn a thing or two from you guys.

As with many mortals who have created fiction, I'd wager you have a lesson for our favorite scheming god about stories and their unpredictable nature—unpredictable even to the author. That's the thing with stories, the characters often seem to take on a life of their own, and refuse to cooperate with the writer(s). It all starts to flow, and mutates until you're simply the conduit from which the life flows. Anyway, this would be an interesting concept for the God of Stories to learn... or be hit over the head with a hammer, perhaps? ;-)

Anyway, thank you all so much, and I'm loving every bit of it.

Sheri from KS

And finally, our letters page would not be complete without Sheri from Kansas! You're the best, Sheri. Your letters never fail to make me smile. And don't lose faith just yet—the story doesn't end with Jane. You're right-on about stories shifting on their own, and when an epic's been this long in telling, it develops its own personality. There's a lot more Loki and the War of the Realms to come.

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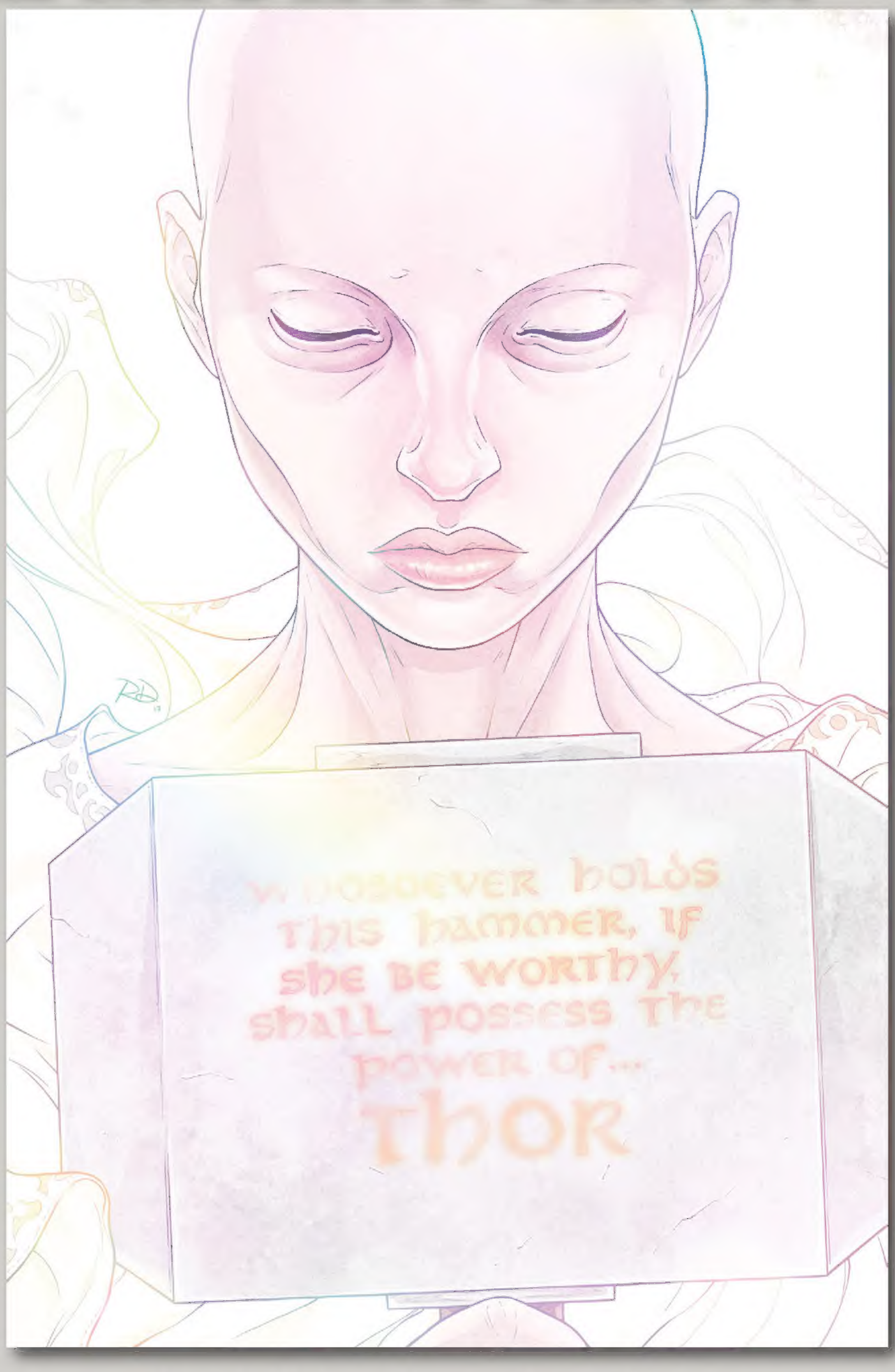
Hammerheads, this is it. I don't have to tell you to pick up next month's issue. I can't imagine you'd make any other choice. See you next time—for the last time.

Sarah

NEXT:

THE MIGHTY THOR #706



THE END

ZONE